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## Uber driver charged with rape had federal drug conviction

By Dane Schiller, Dug Begley | April 7, 2015 | Updated: April 7, 2015 2:47pm

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Uber cab driver Duncan Burton, 57, arrested and charged of sexual assault on a drunk female passenger. According to court documents, Burton performed sexual acts on the woman who he knew was unconscious and unaware and could not provide consent.



An Uber driver arrested last week and charged with sexually assaulting a passenger was released from federal prison and sent to a Houston halfway house in November 2012, but nevertheless received approval to drive for the ride service.

Duncan Burton served 14 years for conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine, according to court records and the U.S. Bureau of Prisons. He was convicted by a jury in Houston and served time in Beaumont, Louisiana and Georgia before being released in 2012, according to the federal prison agency.

Although sentenced originally to 18 years, he had earned nearly three years of good conduct time and

had about two years of jail time.

CHRON

Burton, 57, was arrested Wednesday and charged with one count of sexual assault, a second-degree felony. If convicted, Burton faces a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison. He remains in the Harris County Jail without bail.

Uber spokeswoman Debbie Hancock said Monday that Burton passed the company's background checks. She could not immediately be reached Tuesday to respond to the disclosure of Burton's drug conviction.

Someone with a negotiated drug conviction on his or her record would not be eligible for a city-issued permit, but could appeal and attempt to receive one, said Lara Cottingham, deputy assistant director in the city's Regulatory Affairs Department.

Burton did not have a city permit, but was still accepting passengers for Uber until April 2, when the company was made aware of his arrest and removed him from the system.

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# U-M student tells police Uber driver demanded money or sex act

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By John Counts | [johncounts@mlive.com](mailto:johncounts@mlive.com)

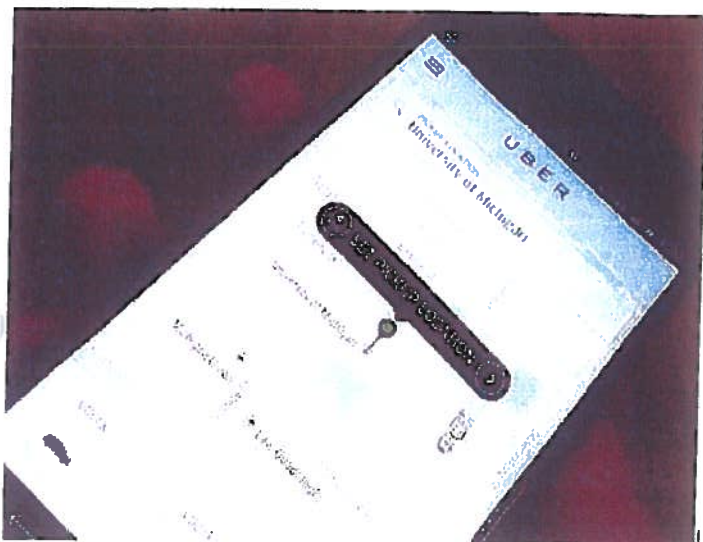
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A female University of Michigan student told police that an Uber driver demanded money or a sex act when she tried getting out of the vehicle around 1:30 a.m. Friday.



Uber is a popular ride-sharing service. *Ann Arbor News*

U-M police issued a security bulletin about the suspicious incident Friday afternoon.

The student said she joined another person in an Uber ride.

"When the victim attempted to leave the vehicle at her destination, the driver reportedly demanded money or a sex act," the bulletin said. "The victim was able to leave the vehicle and enter her residence without physical contact."

The driver is described as an Indian male, mid-20s, slender build with light brown skin, short black hair and clean shaven.

He was wearing a short-sleeve shirt, possibly a polo style and no glasses. The vehicle was a dark-colored, four-door sedan, possibly a Toyota or Honda.

U-M police offer these risk reduction strategies for using Uber:

- Always use the Uber app when securing a ride.
- When sharing a ride, all subjects should request their own rides through the app so everyone has the driver's information and Uber has all passenger information.

Anyone with information about the incident, the vehicle or the driver is urged to contact the U-M Police Department at (734) 763-1131 or the university's anonymous tipline at 800-863-1355.

*John Counts covers crime and breaking news for The Ann Arbor News. He can be reached at [johncounts@mlive.com](mailto:johncounts@mlive.com) or you can follow him on [Twitter](#). Find all Washtenaw County crime stories [here](#).*



# Philadelphia Uber Driver Accused Of Raping Female Passenger

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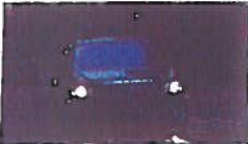


Aleksander Chan



In a disturbing story published today [by Philadelphia magazine](#), a woman alleges that the Uber driver that picked her up in Philadelphia's Old City last month "held her arms down, ripped her pants, and raped her."

The woman, 33, also claims that the driver held her in his car and continued to drive her around for more than two hours.



**Boston Uber Driver Charged With Raping Passenger in His Backseat**

A Boston Uber driver has been arrested for picking up a female passenger, driving her to an...

And even though a police report was filed more than a month ago (on the same day she was allegedly assaulted), a spokesperson for Uber claims the company only learned of the incident after *Philly* mag called for comment on the story today.

**Update 2, 3:57 p.m.:** It would appear, at least according to a rough translation [of this Le Parisien story](#), that this isn't the first time Uber claimed to have learned about an alleged sexual assault perpetrated by a driver long after it had been reported to police. (H/T [@chilcabby](#))

**Update, 3:26 p.m.:** "Our thoughts and prayers are with the victim," an Uber spokesperson said in an emailed statement. "The driver in question has been deactivated from the Uber platform, and we will assist the authorities in any way we can."

The company's comment goes on:

*Here is what we know at this time:*

- *The trip in question occurred on February 6th and concluded with the driver dropping off the rider at the address where the Philadelphia Police Department 5th District station is located.*
- *The driver has been interviewed by the PPD and was not arrested and continues to cooperate in their investigation.*
- *The driver was affiliated with Uber Philadelphia as an uberX partner.*
- *Upon learning of the incident, we immediately contacted PPD to assist in their investigation and support their efforts in any way we can.*
- *As the investigation continues, the driver's access to the Uber platform has been suspended.*
- *While we do not know the identity of the victim due the PPD's privacy policy, our thoughts and prayers are with her.*

[Image via Uber]

LIVING

# UN Women Breaks Off Partnership with Uber

Just weeks after they announced partnership to create 1 million jobs for women

UN Women has cancelled a partnership with Uber that aimed to create jobs for women at the company after objections were raised about Uber's safety record with women and treatment of its drivers.

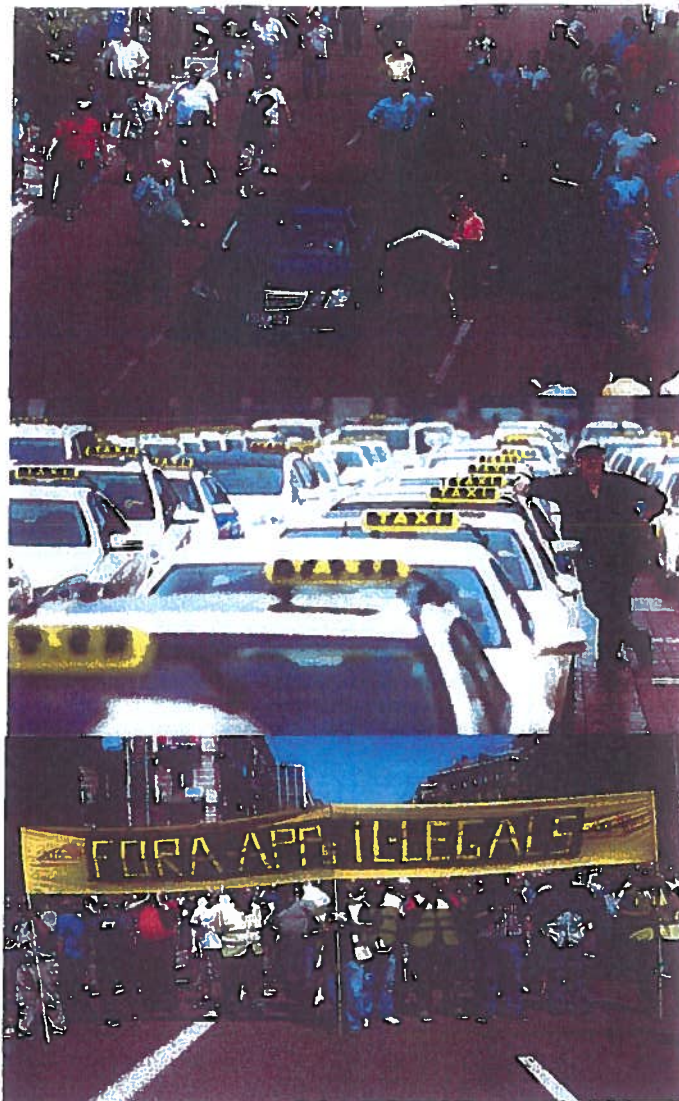
On March 10th, UN Women and Uber announced a partnership to create one million Uber jobs for women by 2020, as part of their endeavor to increase economic empowerment for women around the world. But on March 12th, the International Transport Federation published a letter criticizing the partnership, noting that Uber drivers often lack basic job protections like minimum wage and health care. "Women already make up a high percentage of the precarious workforce, and increasing informal, piecemeal work contributes significantly to women's economic dis-empowerment and marginalization across the globe," the ITF wrote. Uber jobs, they said, would "not contribute to women's economic empowerment and represents exactly the type of structural inequality within the labor market that the women's movement has been fighting for decades."

SEE UBER PROTESTS FROM AROUND



THE WORLD





Sean Gallup—Getty Images

Hundreds of taxi drivers gather next to the Olympia Stadium to protest ride-sharing apps on June 11, 2014 in Berlin.

So in a speech last week, UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka quietly cancelled the partnership. “Not only are we listening, we are aligned,” Mlambo-Ngcuka [said](#). “I also want to assure you that UN Women will not accept an offer to collaborate on job creation with Uber, so you can rest assured about that.” ([UN Women](#) is the branch of the United Nations that works to empower women and girls and to end gender discrimination.)